

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 through 8 (canceled).

1           9. (currently amended) A method of treating a patient  
2 undergoing treatment with a gestagen hormone composition for  
3 hormone replacement therapy, for inflammation, for an in vitro  
4 fertilization program, for dermatological therapy or for  
5 cosmetological treatment to reduce ~~an elevated plasma homocysteine~~  
6 ~~content resulting from taking a gestagen hormone composition~~  
7 ~~thereby reducing a risk to the patient~~ of thromboembolism induced  
8 by taking the gestagen hormone, which comprises the step of admin-  
9 istering to the patient simultaneously, previously or subsequently  
10 to taking the gestagen hormone composition a therapeutically  
11 effective amount of a plasma homocysteine reducing agent ~~to reduce~~  
12 ~~the elevated plasma homocysteine content resulting from taking the~~  
13 ~~gestagen hormone composition.~~

1           10. (Currently amended) The method of treatment defined  
2 in claim 9 wherein the plasma homocysteine reducing agent is a  
3 compound selected from the group consisting of folic acid, Vitamin  
4 B<sub>6</sub>, Vitamin B<sub>12</sub>, betaine, choline, and acetylcysteine, ~~or a meta-~~  
5 ~~bolic precursor, analogue or derivative thereof.~~

1           11. (Currently amended) The method of treatment defined  
2 in claim 9 wherein the ~~compound effective to reduce the elevated~~  
3 ~~blood homocysteine level~~ plasma homocysteine reducing agent is  
4 folic acid.

1           12. (Currently amended) The method of treatment defined  
2 in claim 9 wherein the ~~compound effective to reduce the elevated~~  
3 ~~blood homocysteine level~~ plasma homocysteine reducing agent is  
4 Vitamin B<sub>6</sub>.

1           13. (Currently amended) The method of treatment defined  
2 in claim 9 wherein the gestagen hormone composition contains a  
3 ~~progesterone or an analogue, derivative or metabolic precursor~~  
4 thereof.

14. (Canceled)

1           15. (Currently amended) A method of reducing a risk of  
2 thromboembolism induced by a gestagen hormone upon administration  
3 of said hormone to a patient for ~~contraception~~, hormone replacement  
4 therapy, relieving inflammation, an in vitro fertilization program,  
5 dermatological therapy or cosmetological treatment ~~in a patient~~  
6 comprising the step of administering to the patient simultaneously,

7 previously or subsequently to taking the gestagen hormone composi-  
8 tion a therapeutically effective amount of a plasma homocysteine  
9 reducing agent.

1 16. (Currently amended) The method of reducing a risk of  
2 thromboembolism defined in claim 15 wherein the plasma homocysteine  
3 reducing agent is a compound selected from the group consisting of  
4 folic acid, Vitamin B<sub>6</sub>, Vitamin B<sub>12</sub>, betaine, choline, and  
5 acetylcysteine, ~~or a metabolic precursor, analogue or derivative~~  
6 thereof.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

1 19. (New) A method of treating an otherwise healthy  
2 patient taking a gestagen hormone composition for contraception to  
3 reduce a risk to the patient of thromboembolism induced by taking  
4 the gestagen hormone, which comprises the step of administering to  
5 the patient simultaneously, previously or subsequently to taking  
6 the gestagen hormone composition for contraception, a therapeuti-  
7 cally effective amount of a plasma homocysteine reducing agent.

1           20. (New) A method of reducing a risk to an otherwise  
2 healthy patient of thromboembolism induced by administration of a  
3 gestagen hormone composition to said patient for contraception  
4 comprising the step of administering to the patient simultaneously,  
5 previously or subsequently to taking the gestagen hormone composi-  
6 tion a therapeutically effective amount of a plasma homocysteine  
7 reducing agent.

1           21. (New) The method of treating a patient defined in  
2 claim 9 wherein the patient has an elevated plasma homocysteine  
3 level resulting from taking a gestagen hormone composition.

1           22. (New) The method of reducing a risk of thromboembo-  
2 lism in a patient as defined in claim 15 wherein the patient has an  
3 elevated plasma homocysteine level resulting from taking a gestagen  
4 hormone composition.

1           23. (New) The method of treating an otherwise healthy  
2 patient as defined in claim 19 wherein the patient has an elevated  
3 plasma homocysteine level resulting from taking a gestagen hormone  
4 composition.

1           24. (New) The method of reducing a risk to an otherwise  
2 healthy patient of thromboembolism as defined in claim 20 wherein

3     the patient has an elevated plasma homocysteine level resulting  
4     from taking a gestagen hormone composition.

1                 25. (New) A method of treating a patient taking a  
2     composition comprising a gestagen hormone to reduce a risk of  
3     thromboembolism induced by taking the gestagen hormone, which  
4     comprises the step of administering to the patient simultaneously,  
5     previously or subsequently to taking the composition comprising the  
6     gestagen hormone, a therapeutically effective amount of Vitamin B<sub>12</sub>,  
7     betaine, choline or acetyl cysteine.